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THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

WHAT IS CONFESSION?

A careful study of the New Testament shows that confessing faith in Christ is a necessary step in receiving salvation from sin. Romans 10:9-10 tells us, **“that if you confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth **confession is made unto salvation.**” After Philip had joined the Ethiopian Eunuch in his chariot and preached Christ to him the Bible tells us in Acts 8:36-37, “Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” It is obvious in preaching Christ Philip taught the Ethiopian the necessity of baptism and its relationship to salvation, else why would the Ethiopian request to be baptized? However, before being baptized it was necessary for the Ethiopian to both believe and to confess his faith in Christ as the Son of God.

Note that the Ethiopian did not confess before his baptism, “I believe that God for Jesus’ Christ’s sake has pardoned my sins.” No, the Ethiopian simply confessed, “I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Notice that he did not rejoice at this point of confessing his faith in Christ. It was not until Philip and the Ethiopian both went down into the water and Philip baptized the Ethiopian that the Bible says, “he went on his way rejoicing.” (Acts 8:38-39). The Ethiopian was not saved at the point of confessing his faith in Christ but only after having his sins washed away in being immersed in water, into the death of Jesus where he reached the cleansing blood (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-5; Galatians 3:26-27).

Jesus spoke of the necessity of confessing Him before men. Jesus said, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33).

Confessing faith in Christ does not end with one’s initial salvation. The Christian confesses faith in Christ by living faithful to the Lord each day (See Galatians 2:20).

Dear reader, have you confessed “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?” If you are a Christian, are you continuing to confess Him before men by living as His faithful servant? Visit our webpage at greenplainchurchofchrist.org.